60¢
U.K. 20p
NO. 347
MAY
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BAT MAN
A TALE OF TWO BOYS... THE INNER CITY... and "THE SHADOW of the BATMAN"
POLICE
BUCKLER & GIORDANO
WHERE THE ACTION IS!
C-865

SCIENCE TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A MONSTER.
LOVE CHANGED HIM EVEN MORE!

SWAMP THING

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LEGENDS ARE BIRTHED BY THE RISE OF MEN EXTRAORDINARY IN OUTLOOK AND DEED.
BUT IT TAKES OTHER MEN WHO RESPOND TO THOSE DEEDS TO KEEP A LEGEND ALIVE.
SO, ARE YOU IN OR NOT?
WELLLL... I DON'T KNOW. ROBBING A BANK IS AWFUL RISKY.
I TOLOJA--THERE'S NO RISK! ABSOLUTELY NONE!
NO RISK...? IN THIS TOWN? WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO KID?
WHAT ABOUT-- THE BATMAN?

THE SHADOW OF THE BATMAN
STORY: ROGER SLIFER
ART: TREVOR VON EEDEN & PABLO MARCOS
LETTERS: JOHN COSTANZA
COLORS: ADRIENNE ROY
EDITING: DICK GIORDANO

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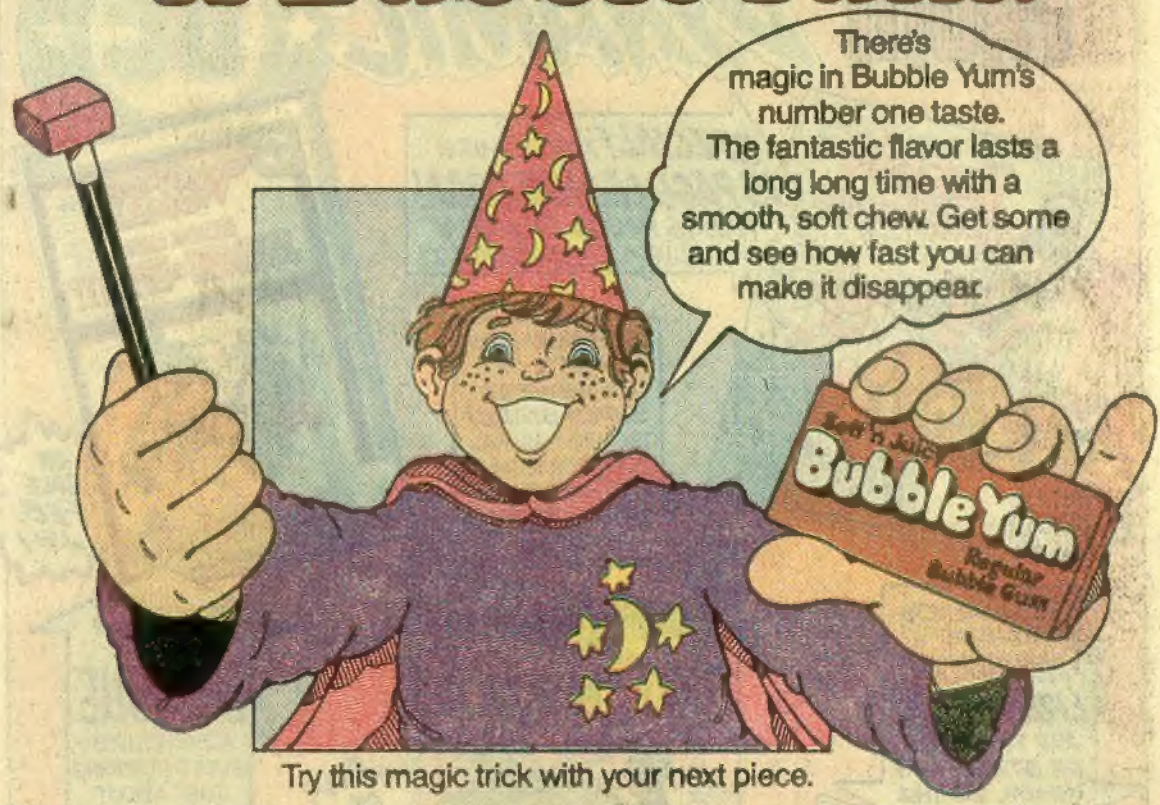
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT HIM... AND SOME OF THEM ARE REALLY SPOOKY.
"LIKE ONCE THERE WAS A BREAKOUT AT GOTHAM PRISON...
"IT WAS A REALLY BLOODY BREAK. THE ONES BEHIND IT HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. THEY WERE ALL LIFERS--MURDERERS ALL, AND PROUD OF IT!
"THREE GUARDS WERE BUTCHERED AND THE ONES REMAINING REFUSED TO CHASE THE CONVICTS WITHOUT HELP.
"SO THEY JUST STOOD AND WATCHED AS A DOZEN OF THE PRISONERS ESCAPED INTO THE WOODS."
THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW!
"AND THAT'S WHERE HE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM!
"HE WAS HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED.
"STILL, ONE BY ONE...
"...THEY BEGAN TO VANISH!
2

"THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THEIR RANKS DWINDLING UNTIL ONLY SIX WERE LEFT."
JAKE...? MURPHY...?
H-HEY, HAS ANY-ONE G-SEEN WILSON?
"THEY LOOKED TO THE TREES THEN, AND THEY KNEW HE WAS THERE.
"THEY GOT REALLY SCARED...
"...AND THEY FIRED WILDLY INTO THE WOODS.
"THEY COULDN'T SEE HIM, BUT THEY COULD HEAR HIM... GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER.
"THEN FOR AN INSTANT HE SEEMED ALMOST HUMAN...
"...AS A MISSTEP BROUGHT HIM INTO THE OPEN--
--AND INTO THE PATH OF A BULLET!
"THEY SAW HIM STUMBLE AND FALL. AND THEY WEREN'T ABOUT TO QUESTION THE LUCKY FLUKE..."
I GOT HIM! I SHOT THE BATMAN!
"BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE CLEARING, BATMAN WAS GONE!
"THEY SEARCHED THE ENTIRE AREA JUST TO BE SURE...
"...SEARCHED IT SO THOROUGHLY ONLY THE WIND COULD HAVE WHISPERED BY THEM.
3

"FINALLY, THEY GAVE UP THE SEARCH, CONVINCING THEMSELVES THAT BATMAN WAS SURELY DEAD -- DESPITE THE FACT THEY HAD FOUND NO BODY.
"THEN THEY FOUND THE BARN, AND THEIR HACKLES ROSE AGAIN."
AH...AH, RELAX, GUYS. NOBODY HUMAN COULD HAVE MADE IT TH-THIS FAR WOUNDED.
YEAH. NOBODY... HUMAN.
"WITHOUT A WORD, A NEW SEARCH BEGAN.
CLUNK!
"NO SHADOWY CORNER WAS IGNORED."
IS HE UP THERE, WEASEL?
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

The magic in gum is Bubble Yum®.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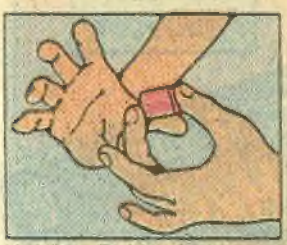
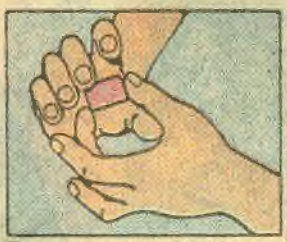
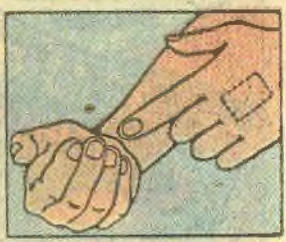


Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.

Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.

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WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

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UHHN...
NO! IT'S EMPTY! COMPLETELY EMPTY!
SLAM!
ALL RIGHT. HELP ME CHECK THE STABLES.
"THE SEARCH TURNED UP NOTHING, SO THEY SETTLED INTO SLEEP."
HEY! HAS ANYBODY SEEN WEASEL?
"THEN IT HAPPENED AGAIN. ONE OF THEM CAME UP MISSING!
NOPE.
NOT LATELY.
ME NEITHER.
GOTTA GET AWAY! THE POLICE 'LL PROTECT ME!
"THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK. IT WAS LIKE THE BATMAN HAD SEEPED INTO THEIR SOULS.
"SOMEONE REACHED FOR THE LAMP--
"--AND WAS SHOT!
"FOR A TIME THERE WAS ONLY CONFUSION.
"EVERYONE SHOUTING. EVERYONE... SHOOTING.
"AND WHEN IT WAS OVER, THE ONLY SURVIVOR SAW BATMAN APPEAR FROM NOWHERE!"
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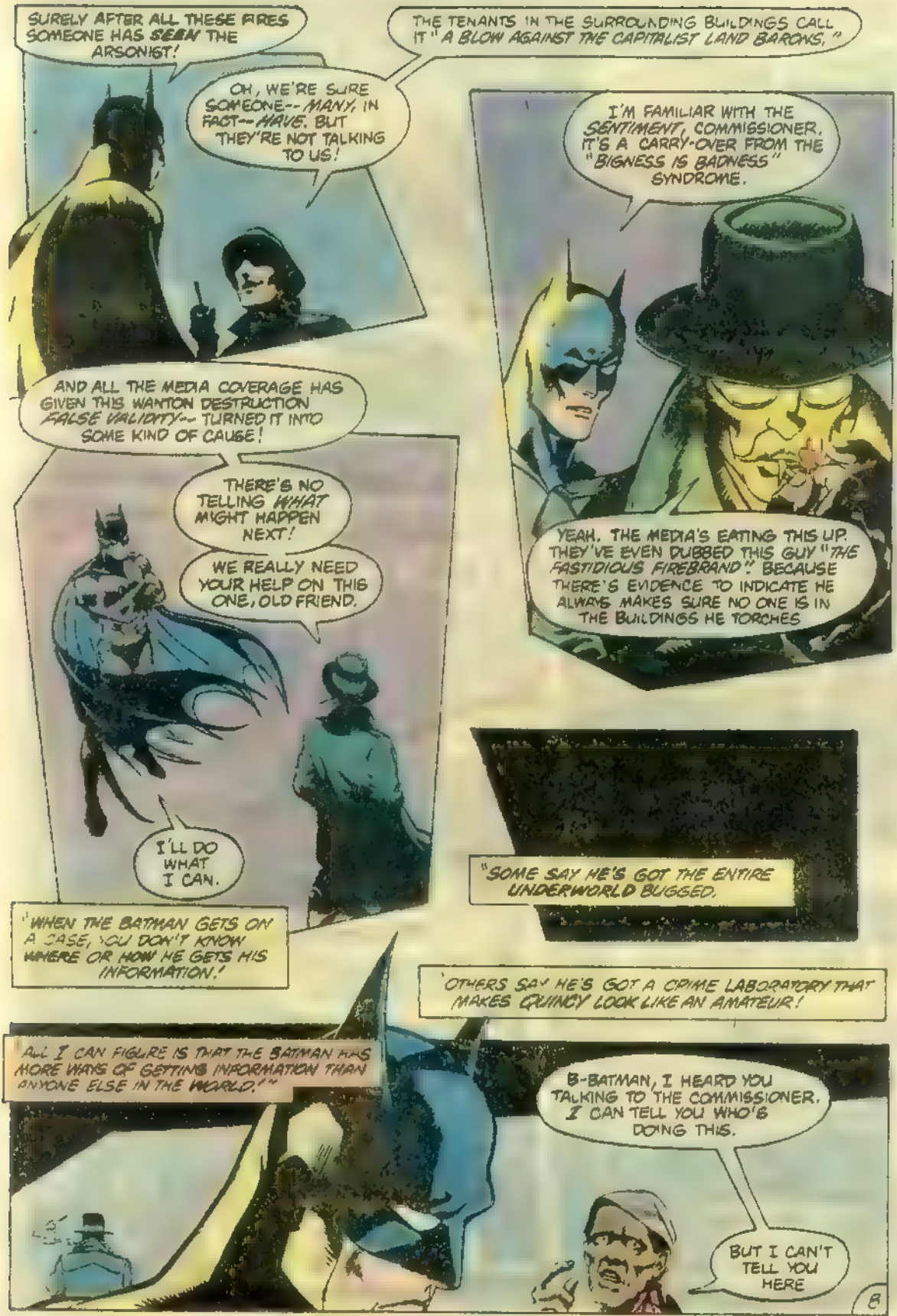
WHOO! THAT'S SPOOKY ALL RIGHT!
BUT LOOSEN UP, MAN! DON'T SWEAT THE BATMAN! I HEARD ON THE RADIO THAT HE'S ON A MISSION WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
YOU'RE STILL NOT SMILING! IT'S FOOLPROOF, I TELL YOU!
YEAH... BUT IS IT RIGHT?
RIGHT!? GEEZ, YOU'RE OLD-FASHIONED!
LOOK AROUND YOU, BUDDY!
YOUR PLACE AIN'T NO BETTER THAN THIS DUMP! IS THIS RIGHT? DO WE DESERVE THIS?
C'MON, YOU CAN'T JUSTIFY TAKING SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE JUST BECAUSE IT ISN'T OURS!
IT ONLY HURTS PEOPLE IF YOU DO THAT!
AH HA! "HURT!" THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS, ISN'T IT?
BLEEDING-HEART BARRY HEMORRHAGES AGAIN!
LOOK, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED! I'VE GOT A GUY INSIDE THE BANK TO HELP. ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS BE MY ALIBI LATER!
NOBODY'S GONNA BE HURT!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS HURT INDIRECTLY BY THESE THINGS -- IN WAYS YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE!
YEAH? HOW? GIMME A FERINSTANCE.

OKAY, I WILL. IT'S ANOTHER STORY I HEARD ABOUT THE BATMAN.
ANY LEADS COMMISSIONER?
AHA..? IT'S YOU.
NO NOTHING AS USUAL.
THIS CASE IS DRIVING ME OUT OF MY MIND, BATMAN!
FOR MONTHS SOME NAPALM-THROWING NUT GOES ABOUT TORCHING ABANDONED BUILDINGS
NO!
THE BUILDINGS' OWNERS DON'T CARE -- AFTER ALL, THEY'RE INSURED!
AND SINCE THE BUILDINGS ARE UNINHABITED -- UNINHABITABLE SOME SAY -- NO TENANTS ARE UP IN ARMS


SURELY AFTER ALL THESE FIRES SOMEONE HAS SEEN THE ARSONIST!
OH, WE'RE SURE SOMEONE-- MANY, IN FACT-- HAVE. BUT THEY'RE NOT TALKING TO US!
THE TENANTS IN THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS CALL IT "A BLOW AGAINST THE CAPITALIST LAND BARONS."
I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE SENTIMENT, COMMISSIONER. IT'S A CARRY-OVER FROM THE "BIGNESS IS BADNESS" SYNDROME.
YEAH. THE MEDIA'S EATING THIS UP. THEY'VE EVEN DUBBED THIS GUY "THE FASTIDIOUS FIREBRAND". BECAUSE THERE'S EVIDENCE TO INDICATE HE ALWAYS MAKES SURE NO ONE IS IN THE BUILDINGS HE TORCHES
AND ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS GIVEN THIS WANTON DESTRUCTION FALSE VALIDITY-- TURNED IT INTO SOME KIND OF CAUSE!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT!
WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP ON THIS ONE, OLD FRIEND.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
"WHEN THE BATMAN GETS ON A CASE, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE OR HOW HE GETS HIS INFORMATION!
"SOME SAY HE'S GOT THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD BUGGED.
"OTHERS SAY HE'S GOT A CRIME LABORATORY THAT MAKES QUINCY LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR!
"ALL I CAN FIGURE IS THAT THE BATMAN HAS MORE WAYS OF GETTING INFORMATION THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD!"
B-BATMAN, I HEARD YOU TALKING TO THE COMMISSIONER. I CAN TELL YOU WHO'S DOING THIS.
BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU HERE
8

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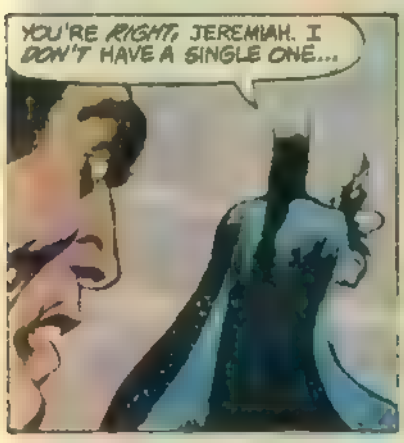
I DON'T THINK THE POLICE BOTHER NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT. YOU DON'T OWE NUTHIN TO NOBODY. YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT
I TRY
C'MON IN AND MEET MY HUSBAND HE'S BETTER AT EXPLAININ' THESE THINGS THAN ME
HENRY" COME MEET A GUES"
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN, BATMAN! YOU KNOW HOW I LOVE MAKING THINGS FOR THE CHILDREN
OH MY LORD, BATMAN! FOR T'S SON MONTO TO MEET YOU
THAT'S QUITE A COUGH YOU'VE GOT THERE. YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR
I'VE GOT A ;KOFF; APPOINTMENT TOMORROW BUT THAT ;WHEEZE CAN'T BE AS IMPORTANT AS WHATEVER BRINGS YOU HERE. CAN I HELP YOU IN SOME WAY?
HE'S TRYING TO FIND THE ARSONIST
OH
BATMAN, I GOTTA SAY ;KUFF; I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT WHAT THIS YOUNG ONE IS DOING IS ARSONS HE THINKS WHAT HE'S ;WHEEZE; DOING IS HELPIN' THE PEOPLE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD
AT LEAST HE BELIEVES IN SOMETHING. SO FEW PEOPLE TODAY DO.
STILL, I'M NOT SURE I'S RIGHT EITHER VIOLENCE HAS NEVER SEEMS RIGHT NOT EVEN WHEN SOME SAY THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET ANY REACTION
I'LL LEAVE IT FOR YOU TO DECIDE
HERE I'LL WRITE DOWN JOEL HIS NAME AND THE PLACE WHERE YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND HIM
THANKS AND TAKE CARE OF THAT COUGH
"WITHIN AN HOUR, THE BATMAN HAD LEARNED MORE THAN THE POLICE HAD IN SIX MONTHS

I'M HERE TO SEE JEREMIAH JONES.
UH-UH, MAN. THERE'S A PRIVATE MEETING GOIN' ON. THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED IN ARE THOSE WITH A PERSONAL INVITE FROM JEREMIAH HIMSELF!
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, BATMAN? HAVING YOU HANGING AROUND WOULD INHIBIT FREE EXPRESSION AT THE MEETING.
SURE YOU BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH, DON'T YOU?
YES I DO
BUT I
—THAT FREE SPEECH
TO ANYONE WILLING TO LISTEN.
LIKE ME.
INSIDE
FOUND
SO THAT COVERS THE LOGISTICS
BART, YOU HANDLE THE POLICE SCAN, AND JAN YOU MAKE SURE THE PRESS GETS HERE WITHOUT TIPPING OFF THE POLICE.
HARRY YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE VACATING!
ALL THREE NETWORKS HAVE BEEN COVERING OUR PROTEST TO DATE. THEY'LL ALL WANT TO BE IN ON THE EMANCIPATION MARCH

WE ... BURN DOWN EVERY ABANDONED BUILDING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THE PUBLIC TO RECOGNIZE OUR PLIGHT!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW, BUT DAYS LATER -- THE MOMENT JEREMIAH LIT THE FIRST FIRE -- BATMAN WAS THERE
A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! A FLAMING SYMBOL OF LIBERTY! AND IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!
WILL YOU COME ALONG QUIETLY?
WHAT?
OH, HI, BATS! COME TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION?
I'VE COME TO PUT A STOP TO YOUR DESTRUCTION!
YEAH? HOW? YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE PROOF TO PROSECUTE
LOOK AROUND YOU, JEREMIAH--
I'VE GOT DOZENS OF WITNESSES TO YOUR ACT OF ARSON. AND THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ENOUGH FINGERPRINTS ON THAT GAS CAN--
GAS
..THERE.
AND WHAT GAS CAN MIGHT THAT BE, BATMAN?
GAS
SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THE ONE OVER THERE WITH ALL THE SMUDGED FINGER-PRINTS ON IT, DO YOU?

AS FOR WITNESSES, I DON'T SEE NONE.
THESE ARE MY PEOPLE, BATMAN! JUST LIKE YOURS ARE THE STINKIN' PUSS! MY PEOPLE AIN'T GONNA TESTIFY AGAINST ME THEY KNOW I'M DOIN' THIS FOR THEM!
YOU AIN'T GOT NO WITNESSES BATMAN, NOT A SINGLE ONE!


YOU'RE RIGHT, JEREMIAH. I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE ONE...

..I'VE GOT TWO
"I WAS IN THE CROWD THAT DAY AND GOOD HERE NO SIR, WE KNEW THE BATMAN WAS BLUFFING.. THAT HE WAS JUST TRYING TO SAVE FACE
AT LEAST.. WE THOUGHT WE KNEW"

THESE PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS-- NOT INTENTIONALLY, BUT THEY'RE MISDIRECTED, TAKING OUT THEIR ANGER BY THE ONLY OUTLET THEY CAN FIND!
STILL I ALERT FIREFIGHTERS TO PUT OUT THE FIRE, IT'D CAUSE A RIOT

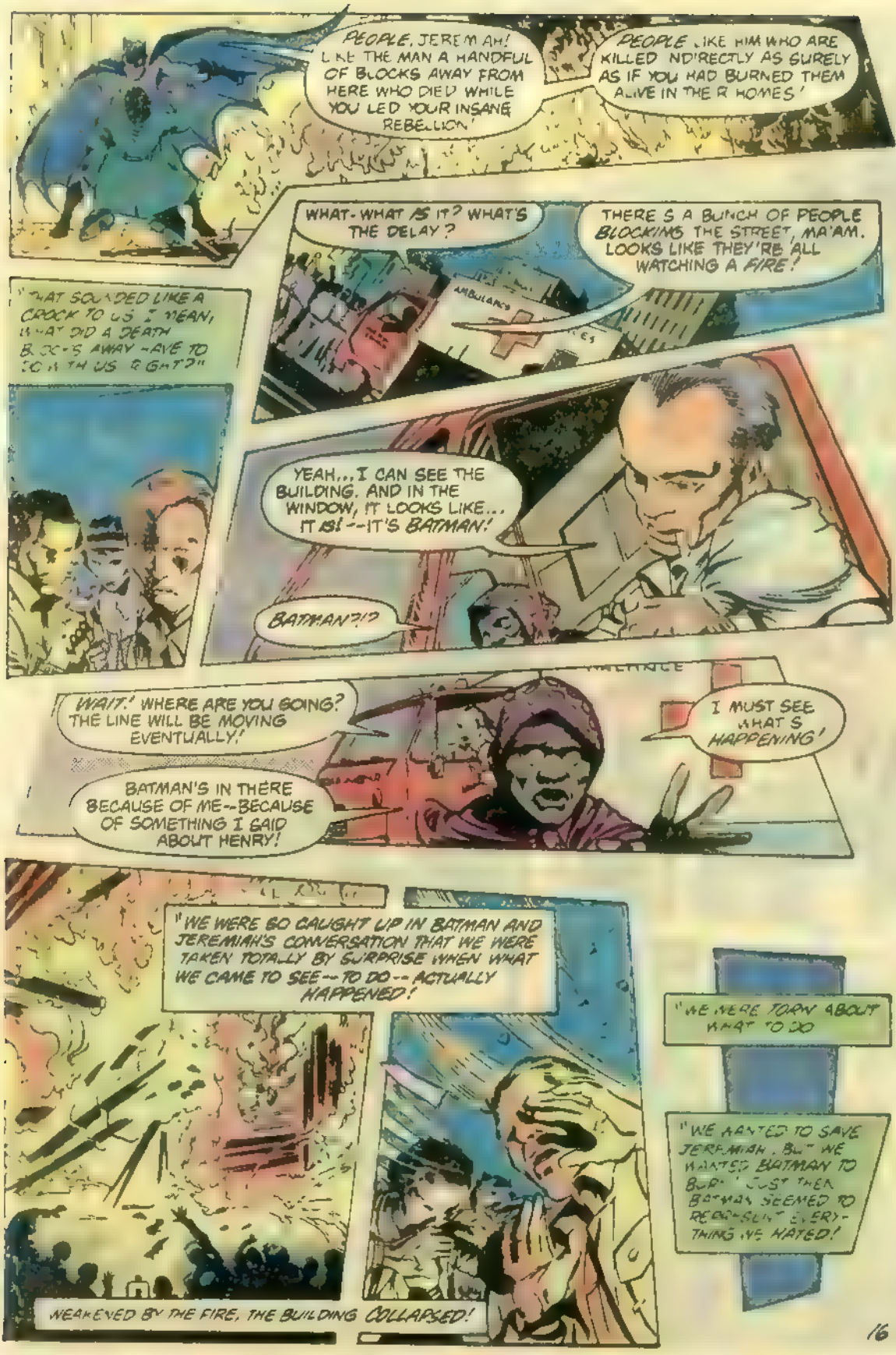
NO...I'VE GOT TO BRING PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO REASON WITH THEM-- PEOPLE WHO WON'T BE VIEWED AS OUTSIDERS!
PEOPLE LIKE MARTHA AND HENRY!
WAIT!... AN AMBULANCE! AND THAT BODY ON THE STRETCHER

MARTHA WHAT HAPPENED? IS THAT--
MAY REST
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BATMAN

THE SAME... POOR, WAS TOO! AN' HENRY EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO SURVIVE!
BECAUSE OF ALL THE FIRES AROUND HERE YOU KNOW
YOU CAN'T BLAME THE FIREMEN. THEY DID THEIR BEST.
SO WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

BATMAN...?
"THE FLAMES GOT HIGH REALLY FAST! IT WAS QUITE A SIGHT! BY THE TIME THE REST OF THE TV CAMERAS GOT THERE.
WE WERE ABOUT TO HEAD ON TO THE NEXT BUILDING IN OUR CRUSADE WHEN
JEREMIAH!
NOBODY MOVED
EXCEPT BATMAN.
BEFORE ANYONE COULD EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO STOP HIM, HE PICKED LIEUTENANT JEREMIAH BY HIS SHIRT--
--AND CLIMBED HIM INTO THE BURNING BUILDING!
ZOOM IN. MIKE THIS'LL BE JUST IN TIME FOR THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK EDITION.

"SUDDENLY IT HAD GOTTEN SO QUIET WE COULD HEAR THEIR VOICES OVER THE CRACKLING OF THE FLAMES.. AND THE CREAK OF WEAKENING TIMBERS."
"BATMAN WASN'T EVEN SCARED-- OR MAYBE HE WAS. BUT IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM...
"...LIKE HE HAD A POINT TO MAKE WORTH DYING FOR!"
YOU CRAZY, MAN?! YOU GONNA KILL US BOTH!
I'M READY... ARE YOU?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT I'M DOING, I'M DOING FOR THE PEOPLE, MAN! THE PEOPLE!
THE PEOPLE-- OR THE PRESS?
UH-OH. WE'LL HAVE TO CUT THAT LAST REMARK.
BECAUSE YOU'RE HURTING A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU'RE HELPING!
BULL! WE AIN'T HURTIN' NOBODY-- ONLY BRICKS AND MORTAR, MAN! WOOD AND NAILS! STEEL AND PLASTIC...
FLESH AND BLOOD!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?


PEOPLE, JEREMIAH! LIKE THE MAN A HANDFUL OF BLOCKS AWAY FROM HERE WHO DIED WHILE YOU LED YOUR INSANE REBELLION!
PEOPLE LIKE HIM WHO ARE KILLED INDIRECTLY AS SURELY AS IF YOU HAD BURNED THEM ALIVE IN THEIR HOMES!
WHAT- WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE DELAY?
AMBULANCE
THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE BLOCKING THE STREET, MA'AM. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL WATCHING A FIRE!
"WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A CROCK TO US I MEAN, WHAT DID A DEATH BLOCKS AWAY HAVE TO DO WITH US RIGHT?"
YEAH... I CAN SEE THE BUILDING. AND IN THE WINDOW, IT LOOKS LIKE... IT IS! --IT'S BATMAN!
BATMAN?!?
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE LINE WILL BE MOVING EVENTUALLY!
I MUST SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!
BATMAN'S IN THERE BECAUSE OF ME--BECAUSE OF SOMETHING I SAID ABOUT HENRY!
"WE WERE SO CAUGHT UP IN BATMAN AND JEREMIAH'S CONVERSATION THAT WE WERE TAKEN TOTALLY BY SURPRISE WHEN WHAT WE CAME TO SEE -- TO DO -- ACTUALLY HAPPENED!
"WE WERE TORN ABOUT WHAT TO DO
"WE WANTED TO SAVE JEREMIAH. BUT WE WANTED BATMAN TO BURN. JUST THEN BATMAN SEEMED TO REPRESENT EVERYTHING WE HATED!
WEAKENED BY THE FIRE, THE BUILDING COLLAPSED!

"SO WE DID NOTHING. I GUESS MAYBE OUR HATE WAS STRONGER THAN OUR LOYALTY
"THEN SOMEONE CAME RUNNING UP..."
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU ALL? BATMAN'S TRAPPED IN THERE!
ARE YOU GOING TO LET SOMEONE ELSE DIE?
"WHEN BATMAN SAID SOMEONE HAD DIED, BECAUSE OF US, WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. WE DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT
ISN'T ENOUGH YOUR ACTS CAUSED THE DEATH OF MY HENRY?!
IT STRUCK HOME
"WE STARTED ANOTHER CHAIN. THIS TIME PASSING DOWN BUCKETS OF WATER... TO PUT OUT THE ROARING FLAMES
"NOBODY WAS VERY TALKATIVE, SO I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS, BUT I KNOW I PITCHED IN BECAUSE I FELT...
"...I FELT...
"...NOT ANGRY AT JERRY MUCH...
"...NOT EVEN CONCERN FOR BATMAN...
"...BUT PITY FOR MARTHA FOR HER LOSS, AND SHAME FOR MY OWN PART IN IT
"MY SHAME WAS INTENSIFIED WHEN I SAW BATMAN DIRECT THE OTHERS
"...SO THAT HE COULD ADMINISTER LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS, TO THE MAN WHO WAS TO BLAME FOR ALL THAT HAD OCCURRED

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT ELSE I FELT THAT DAY, JEFF. I WAS SAD AT MY OWN LOSS.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNEW HENRY--OR IF THAT WAS BEFORE YOU MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
YEAH, I KNEW HIM.
HE LIKED TO BUILD MODEL BOATS.
FOR A TIME THERE IS SILENCE IN THE DINGY ROOM, BROKEN ONLY BY THE SOUNDS OF A GENTLE BREEZE.
THIS TODAY'S PAPER?
YEAH. WHY?
I'M GONNA LOOK FOR AN HONEST JOB.
6

THE SAGA CONTINUES!

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

COMICDOM'S FAVORITE MUCK-ENCRUSTED MOCKERY OF A MAN IS BACK--IN

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AND EDITED BY LEN WEIN!

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM AVCO EMBASSY!

AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO WHET YOUR APPETITE, GET READY FOR THE RETURN OF...

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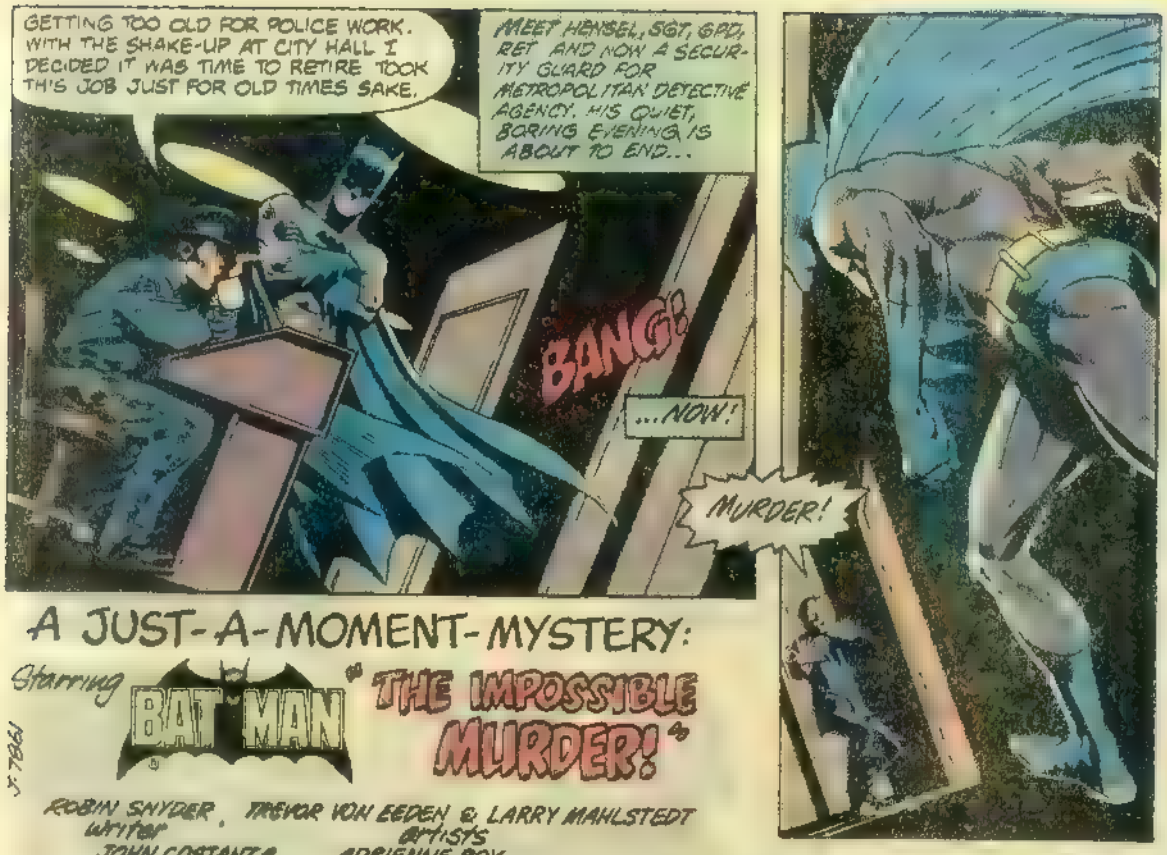
BRAND-NEW EXPLOITS OF DYNAMIC DC's MOST POPULAR HOTHEAD by GERRY CONWAY and PAT BRODERICK!

COMING YOUR WAY MONTHLY! YOU WANTED HIM! YOU GOT HIM! NOW WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH HIM? BUY HIM! WE NEED THE MONEY!

FIRST NEW ISSUE ON SALE MAR. 4TH
DON'T SAY YOU WEREN'T WARNED!

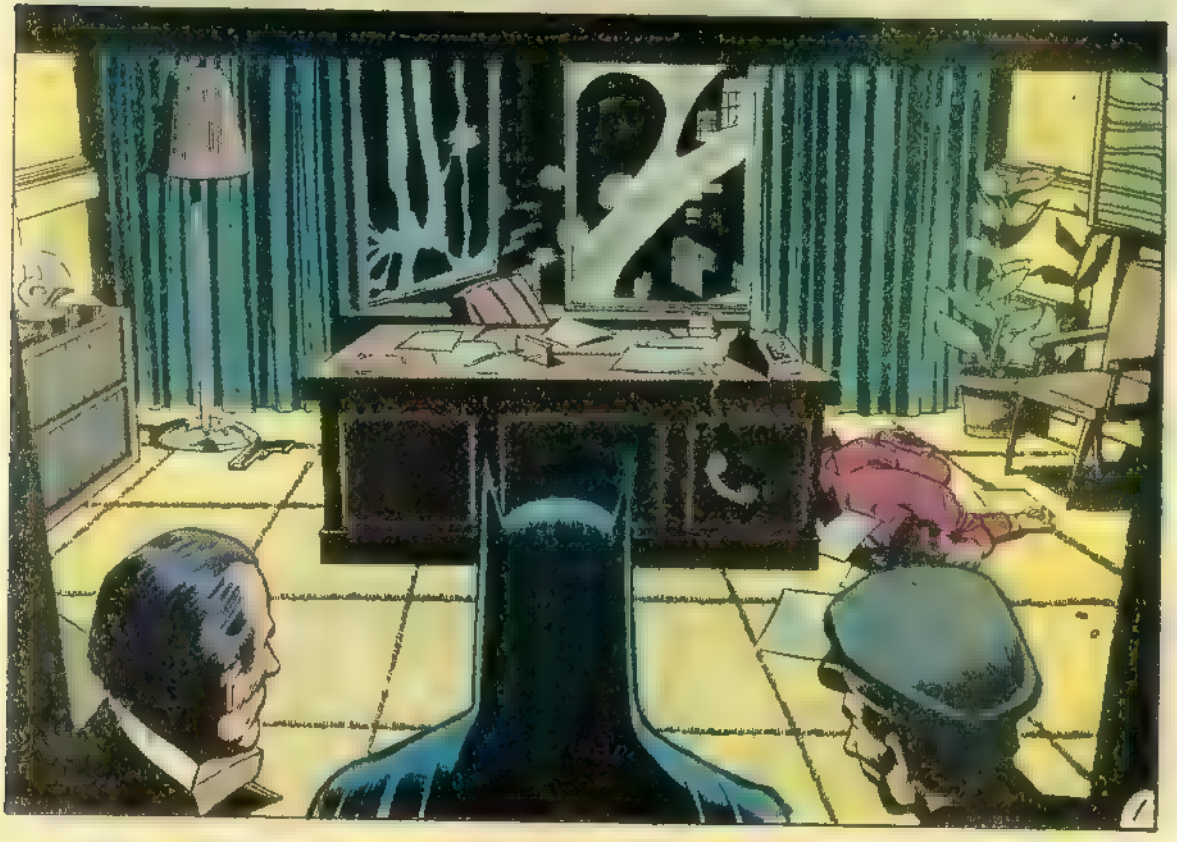

GETTING TOO OLD FOR POLICE WORK. WITH THE SHAKE-UP AT CITY HALL I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO RETIRE. TOOK TH'S JOB JUST FOR OLD TIMES SAKE.
MEET HENSEL, SGT, GPD, RET. AND NOW A SECURITY GUARD FOR METROPOLITAN DETECTIVE AGENCY. HIS QUIET, BORING EVENING IS ABOUT TO END...
BANG!
...NOW!
MURDER!

A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY:

Starring BATMAN in "THE IMPOSSIBLE MURDER!"

J. TOBIN

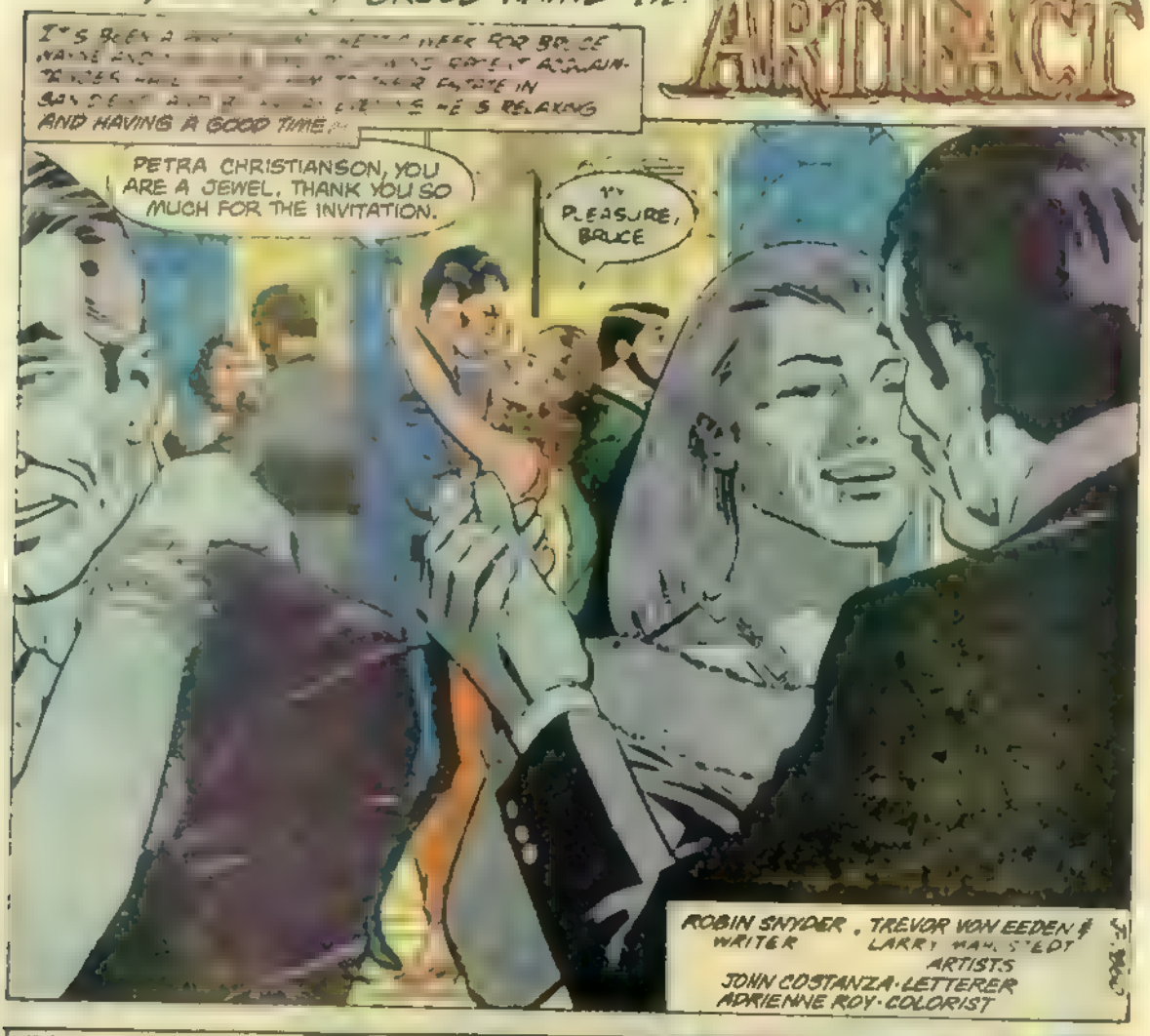
ROBIN SNYDER, writer
TREVOR VON EEDEN & LARRY MAHLSTEDT, artists
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
ADRIENNE ROY, colorist

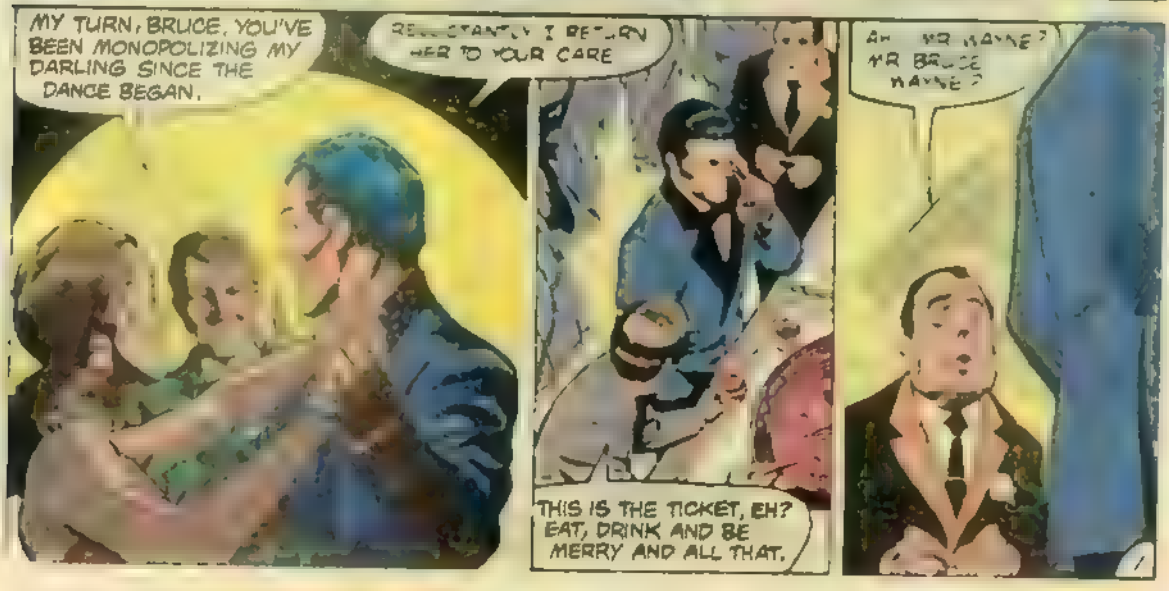


TWO BULLET WOUNDS HIGH IN THE CHEST
MIND TELLING US WHAT HAPPENED?
OH MY! IT WAS JUST AWFUL I'M RICHARD BUSSE BATMAN TH-THAT'S MY PARTNER, RALPH JOHNSON WE WERE WORKING LATE
JOHNSON HAD JUST OPENED THE DOOR FOR SOME AIR WHEN
BLAM!
TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE! THE KILLER DROPPED HIS GUN AND RUSHED DOWN THE FIRE-ESCAPE!
YOUR PARTNER MUST HAVE SPUN ABOUT, KNOCKED THOSE PAPERS ON THE FLOOR AND FALLEN BESIDE THE DESK THAT ABOUT RIGHT?
WH-WHY, YES!
YOU'LL HAVE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE, BUSSE! YOU'D BETTER THINK UP A BETTER STORY THAN THE ONE YOU GAVE US!
JUST A MOMENT! WHAT WAS IT THAT TRIPPED UP BUSSE? QUICKLY NOW!
MIGHTY CLUMSY OF THAT FELLA! IF HE'D REALIZED AN AUTOMATIC EJECTS ITS SHELLS TO THE BACK AND RIGHT HE MIGHT HAVE TOSSED THE CARTRIDGES INTO THE CORNER BY THE LAMP BEFORE CALLING US!
FRIEND, YOU'LL NEVER BE TOO OLD FOR POLICE WORK!
2

A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY

Featuring BRUCE WAYNE in: ARTIFACT


IT'S BEEN A [illegible] WEEK FOR BRUCE WAYNE AND [illegible] GREAT ACQUAINTANCE [illegible] AND IT APPEARS SHE'S RELAXING AND HAVING A GOOD TIME.
PETRA CHRISTIANSON, YOU ARE A JEWEL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE INVITATION.
MY PLEASURE, BRUCE
ROBIN SNYDER . TREVOR VON EEDEN & LARRY MAHLSTEDT
WRITER
ARTISTS
JOHN COSTANZA · LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY · COLORIST


MY TURN, BRUCE. YOU'VE BEEN MONOPOLIZING MY DARLING SINCE THE DANCE BEGAN.
RELUCTANTLY I RETURN HER TO YOUR CARE
THIS IS THE TICKET, EH? EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY AND ALL THAT.
AH MR WAYNE? MR BRUCE WAYNE?

RONALD LOWERY, MR. WAYNE. TOM POINTED YOU OUT. I WONDER IF I COULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU IN PRIVATE?
WHY CERTAINLY. TROUBLE?
OH, NOTHING OF THE SORT, WAYNE. IT'S JUST--WELL, BLAST IT-- YES. IT'S THIS ARTIFACT I PURCHASED THIS AFTERNOON.
I'M A BIT WORRIED. ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY, YOU UNDERSTAND. AND TOM--WELL, HE SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO--?
TRUTH TO TELL, WAYNE, I BOUGHT THIS ON THE Q.T. UNDER THE TABLE AND ALL THAT. PAID A PRETTY PENNY, TOO. AND I'M JUST NOW REALIZING HOW FOOLISH I WAS. I DON'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT THE STUFF BUT I KNOW WHAT I LIKE.
BOUGHT IT FROM A FELLOW WHO WAS IN ON A DIG IN CAIRO. FOUND IT BURIED IN SAND OUTSIDE SOME KING'S TOMB.
HE HID IT FROM THE AUTHORITIES AND BROUGHT IT OUT. SAID IT WAS A BIT RUSTY SO HE SANDED IT A BIT. HE TOLD ME IT WAS WORTH TWICE WHAT HE WAS ASKING.
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS REAL ENOUGH, LOWERY, ALTHOUGH--JUST A MOMENT! THIS S A FRAUD!
THE TERM "AD" OR "IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD" IS A PREFIX RATHER THAN A SUFFIX. AN AUTHENTIC PIECE WOULD BE INSCRIBED "AD 154" YOU HAVE BEEN SWINDLED! NOW--IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO THAT DANCE!
7

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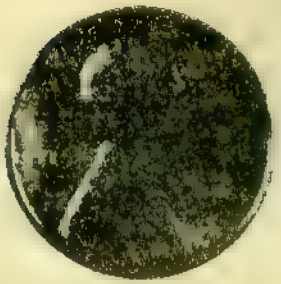

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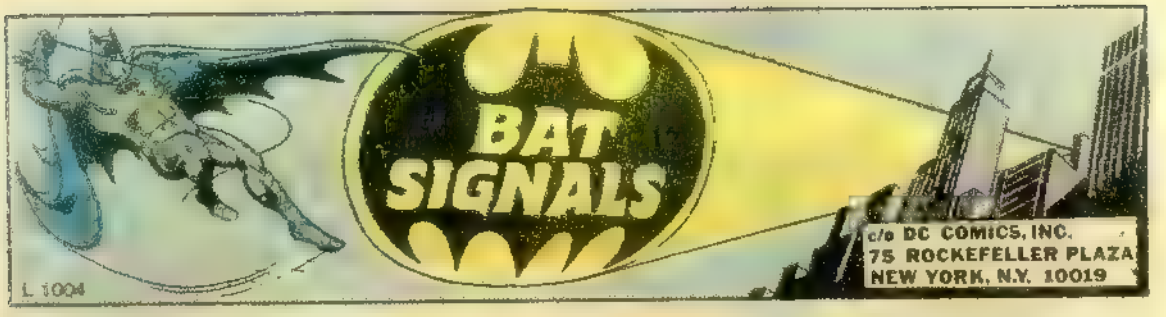

Dear Batman,

I'm back, Bruce. Yeah, I know you haven't heard from me in about a year, but after Len and Marv left, there was no real reason to read your comic anymore. Sure, I still read about your exploits in the BRAVE and BOLD, but you know I can't pass up Jim Aparo's artwork. Conway's scripts and Novick's art just didn't impress me enough to shell out sixty shekels every thirty days. But that's all behind us now, Batbuddy.

You see, a funny thing happened on the way to the newsstand about three months ago. I had heard Gene Colan was going to take a stab at drawing you, but I didn't know when ..and then I saw it. BATMAN #340 by Roy Thomas and Colan. It was great, the best Bat-story since Wolfman left a year ago. Let's skip ahead three months. The place: that same newsstand. The comic: BATMAN #343. The story: muy bien. The art: Colan/Janson (need I say more?). The result: You hooked me again. There are even a couple of subplots now, the lack thereof my major complaint before. I've even figured out a way for you to escape Poison Ivy's trap: Have a psychologist hypnotize you into telling Gordon the whole dirty deal, thereby cancelling out the mental block bestowed by Ivy.

What? Oh, you're quite welcome, pal. Glad to help. See you m th—uh, Bats, tell Dick he's doing an excellent job, okay (after all, we want to get this letter printed, don't we?)?

Stu Krull, 28 Kettle Creek Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728

Bats told me I'm doing an excellent job and to print this letter I have to...Ol' Bats is a lot bigger'n me.

* * * * *

THE RETURN OF GENE COLAN AND HOW YOU SAW IT: "I loved it!" notes JOHN SOMBER, Metropolis, IL. DAMON FERNANDES was even more succinct: "WOW!" ROBERT COWDEN, Walnut Creek, CA, shouted, "Outstanding!", DARREN NASH, Napa, CA, thinks the issue was "exquisite" and ALBIN ZOTIGH went on for three paragraphs before summing up with "fantastic!" STEPHEN GAWRONSKI, Schererville, IN claims he was "so thrilled I'm speechless, but I do wonder who Adrian Gonzales is; he's great." (Fans of Gonzales, and their number is growing, may wish to peruse recent issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, GHOSTS and UNEXPECTED for more recent samples of his work.) TEG ALLEN, West Covina, CA thought the whole issue was great and wonders where he can find Irv Novick now that Gene is drawing the book regularly. End your despair, Novick fans, you'll find his fabulous pencil work in DC COMICS PRESENTS. A bashful reader was so excited about the Gene Colan job that he wrote a small script entitled "Twice Dies the Dynamic Duo". Thanks, pal, but we will continue using Gerry Conway as our author. Your work is much appreciated, though. We must have startled CHRIS KHALAF, Houston, TX because he yelled, "Omigoshi It's just beautiful!"

And so it went. Letter after letter. From TIM SEMER, RICK LUCEY, JOI DUGGAN, DEVON JAMES, CHRIS CAVANAUGH, DAVID PUCKETT, JOHN ZUBER and BRUCE WHATLEY and dozens and dozens of others. Thank you, everyone; we'll do our darndest to continue living up to those kind words.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

I've never written a letter to you before, but after rereading the back-up stories to BATMAN #338, 339, 341-343 I thought that such fantastic stories deserved some praise.

Compliments to Gerry Conway for handling the Robin series with such ability, especially with the difficult situations that Marv Wolfman left him to solve. (Where is Marv these days and why isn't he doing a few BATMAN stories?)

However, most of my applause goes to Trevor Von Eeden who pencilled 3 of the issues. Despite the hinderance of having 3 separate inkers, the artwork came out great! And to you, Carl Gafford, I tip my hat for making the shadows and lighting seem more realistic.

Thanks for keeping Robin as a back-up story.

Troy Taylor, 414 E. Harrison Ct., Granville, IL 61326

We thought you were all aware that Marv Wolfman is busy writing THE NEW TEEN TITANS, recent episodes of Superman in ACTION COMICS and a new still untitled mystery book (with Gene Colan) for Editor, Ross Andru.

PLUG OF THE MONTH: Dave Manak, over-worked and dearly loving it, is about to acquire a new title in his cramped cubicle. The book is new to him but oh so familiar to all Bat-fans. WORLD'S FINEST COMICS. If you're a follower of the Darknight Detective, or have enjoyed the flair Dave has brought to the DC line, we urge you to pick up the next issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS. That's the June number, fan. Wherever fine (DC) comics are sold.

* * * * *

A special "hello" to Jaroslaw Szdstak, W 1000-Lecia, 40-871 Katowice, Poland, a long-time reader who is having difficulty obtaining our titles. We're forwarding a special "care" package to him with our compliments. From DC and the one who is now wishing you all a very happy Valentine's Day. Thank you and good afternoon.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Title of Publication: BATMAN
1A. Publication No.: 045-340
2. Date of Filing: October 1, 1981
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly
3A. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
3B. Annual Subscription Price: $7.20
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019; Editor: Dick Giordano, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019; Managing Editor: Dick Giordano, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
7. Owner: DC Comics Inc., wholly owned by Warner Communications, Inc., a publicly held company, both at 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None
9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: Not Applicable
10. Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	280,913	272,152
B. Paid Circulation: 1. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	108,759	103,839
2. Mail Subscription	2,600	2,238
C. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	110,997	106,433
D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means, Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies	127	127
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)	111 124	106,560
F. Copies Not Distributed: 1. Office Use, Left Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printing	3,389	2,285
2. Return From News Agents	166,390	163,307
G. Total (Sum of E, F1 and 2 - should equal net press run shown in A)	280,913	272,152

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Paul Levitz, Manager of Business Affairs

A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY

"The NERVOUS NEPHEW"

ROBIN SNYDER
AND
TREVOR VON EEDEN
AND
LARRY MAHLSTEDT

JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST

starring Alfred in:
AH, LOOKS LIKE SPRING IS COMING EARLY THIS YEAR! THAT'S FINE. YES INDEED!
IT'S LONELY IN THE OLD MANSION WITH THE MASTER AWAY! MAYBE AN AFTER-DINNER CONSTITUTIONAL WILL CHEER ME UP!
I'LL JUST POP IN FOR A MOMENT TO SAY HELLO. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN EITHER MR PALMER OR...
POTEET... A SPOT OF TEA WOULD BE WONDERFUL! AND HOW IS MR. PALMER?
SOMETHING'S AMISS THERE, OLD FRIEND, HIS NEPHEW HAS BEEN VISITING AND IS DRIVING HIM TO DISTRACTION I'M--
BLAM!
POTEET! COME QUICK!

IT WAS UGLY! HE SAT DOWN AT HIS DESK AND BEGAN TYPING WHILE I WAS TALKING TO HIM...
I'M SORRY! POINT BLANK RANGE TO THE LEFT TEMPLE!
Forgive me It is bet I do this thing
AND YOU SAY YOU SAW ALL THIS, YOUNG SIR?
JUST A MOMENT! I REALLY THINK YOU MURDERED YOUR UNCLE!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE NERVOUS! EXPECTING US TO SWALLOW SUCH A STORY!
YOU PUT THE GUN AT MR. PALMER'S RIGHT SIDE INSTEAD OF HIS LEFT! THEN TYPED THAT NOTE YOURSELF!
HOLD HIM, POTEET! WHILE I CALL THE POLICE!
RIGHT! HE FINISHED TYPING AND LOOKED UP AT ME! BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM HE PULLED OUT A GUN AND--AND--
2

BATMAN'S PEN PALS

Aside to MICHAEL SMITH, 98 Main St. Box 12, Gardner, MA, 01440 and SOPHIA COLIAS, 2392 Woodland Pk Dr, Houston, TX, 77077: Thank you both for your sweet letters,but at the moment we have no autographed pictures of Batman available. If we should ever produce such an item, you'll hear about it on the editorial pages of our Batman titles.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"I've got you this time," boasts MAE'H. of Fennimore, WI. "In BATMAN #344 you state that Vicki Vale last appeared in DETECTIVE COMICS #320. My deductive reasoning tells me this was in the 1960's. But, in BATMAN FAMILY #11, June 1977, Bruce is lured to Wayne Manor by Vicki Vale Powers! He even meets her husband. Also, Vicki is a blonde and has much better taste in clothing. Heh!" *(Heh, yourself, Mae! Technically, the DETECTIVE issue was the last time Bruce saw (single) Vicki. Or: the story in BATMAN FAMILY was apocryphal. Or: we made a mistake but we don't like that explanation!)*

"In which issue did Batman #1 die?" queries DOUG STANLEY, JR, Dayton, KY. *(That would be in ADVENTURE COMICS #462, Apr 1979, Doug.)*

MICHAEL TAYLOR, 202 Milben Flats, Bermeister Circle, Milnerton, 7405, Cape Town, South Africa notes "it is pretty tough to find your books here in the 'bush'. Could you please bring this matter to the attention of your circulation department? Distribution is very poor; the last issue I found, after several months, was BATMAN #331!" *(Can do, chum. We'll make a note of the problem for Bob Nardozzi inDistribution just as soon as we finish our afternoon tea. Let us know if the matter improves, would you please?)*

YABAR FEREAUD, North Bergen, NJ wants to know how Batwoman died *(she was murdered by The Tiger in DETECTIVE COMICS #485)*, when did Alfred first appear *(look at BATMAN #16)*, will I see Bathound again *(you most certainly will if you reread his previous canine classics)* and when did Batman first meet Superman *(that would be forty years ago in ALL STAR COMICS #7)*.

PHANTOM ZONE FANS

Rave reviews for our recent mini-series, THE PHANTOM ZONE, continue to pour in. Listen to CHARLES DAVID HASKELL, NYC, rave on...

"'Earth Under Seige' was terrific. I especially liked the Colan/DeZuniga version of Batman. So many characters and they all played a significant role; that in itself was unusual. Most often when a dozen characters get together there is a lot of standing around by half of them. Not this time! Three cheers!"

DELMO WALTERS, JR. Bronx, NY, considered each page a "masterpiece. I'm only sorry this is all going to end with issue #4."

BATMAN IN 64-PAGER

"Good work, Dick," shouts GURN LEE, Chicago, IL; 'The Monster and the Madman' in DC SPECIAL SERIES #27 was great! The Garcia-Lopez Batman was the best I've seen!"

MAGGIE ADAMS, Taos, NM, was "especially enthralled by the full-page drawings. Garcia-Lopez is a superior artist.

"Beautiful," was the only thing BARBARA WOOD, Tacoma, WA, had to say.

(Does all of that mean you would like to see Jose draw another issue for us?)

REQUEST GRANTED

CHARLES DAVID HASKELL, NYC *(who could very well be our most prolific letter writer)* bemoans the fact that our annuals have all been cancelled. "Bring 'em back. With the larger format you would have the opportunity to tell longer stories that are really special. Think about it."

(We thought about it, Charles, and decided you're right! To that end, 1982 will mark the reappearance of a slew of annuals from DC. Check this out: LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ANNUAL #1 on sale May 15, SGT ROCK'S PRIZE BATTLE TALES #2 on sale June 1, SUPERMAN ANNUAL #9 on sale June 15 and half-a-dozen others you'll be hearing about shortly. And of special interest to you, Charles, will be the book on sale July 15. It's entitled BATMAN ANNUAL #8. How's that for service?)

DENY DOMINOED DAREDOLL

LYNN EVERETT has a bone to pick with us in re the Batgirl.

"Dick, you gotta do something about Batgirl. I have nothing against a bland personality, but that woman is boring. Even when she was supposedly playing in a power structure like the US government she was boring. The only break came when she and Robin became an item. Without Robin, Batgirl has no charm, no sex appeal.

"I have several suggestions to make:

"One, get rid of all those Sears Department Store clothes she has been wearing;

"Two, give her a boyfriend who can rival her, challenge her, arouse her. All of her beaus have been as boring as she has been;

"Three, change her outfit. Julie Newmar looked great in a similar outfit. Unfortunately, it does not translate well onto flat art;

"Four, her hairdo. Change it! Mousy. No mystery. No allure. How about a 'Veronica Lake';

"And finally, there is the effect. Crooks aren't frightened of her. She is a flimsy version of Batman. Make her different!"

Would you believe...? We're doing just about all of the above! A young lady we met at the San Diego convention this past summer has some ideas that parallel your own. The change in Batgirl's personality, appearance & M.O. will start in Detective #517 (I think that's the issue number). Look for it!

BENEATH WAYNE MANOR

"Beneath a harmless-looking Gotham City residence, a unique giant cavern lies hidden from the world! This is the famed Batcave—nerve center of the brilliant war against crime waged endlessly by the great Batman!"—DETECTIVE COMICS, #205, March 1954 ("The Origin of the Batcave!")

KIRK HASTINGS, 117 W Toledo Ave, Wilwood Crest, NJ 08260 considers himself an expert in matters relating to the Batcave and who are we to say thee nay? His expertise must have served him well recently when he completed an incredibly detailed schematic of the Batcave.

Listen in as he reminisces...

"I love it when Batman returns to his 'roots'(so to speak) as he did in issues #340 and #341 of BATMAN. Every time he steps back into the original Batcave, I can almost picture him stopping there in the now-silent darkness and running memories through his head of all the fantastic adventures, all the narrow escapes, and all the midnight talks with either Alfred or Robin that he had in that giant, eerie cavern. I think it would add a great deal of mood to his adventures to move back to the home where he began and developed his career as the Batman 'way back in the 1940's. I'd love to see him standing among the shadowy stalactites of that great cavern once again; the Batmobile roaring again out of the camouflaged doorway in the side of the mountain under which the Batcave lies; Bruce Wayne slipping stealthily behind the antique grandfather's clock in his study and down the winding stairway to the huge cave far below..."

Watch the Batman carefully, Kirk. You'll see him doing all those things you'd love to see the Batman doing.

I wish we could please everyone as easily as we've pleased you.

Thank you and good afternoon.—DG

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